



PRESS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

Post Office Box 600
200 West Forsyth Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/232-2682
904/232-2620 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (Fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

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IDENTITY THIEF RECEIVES HIGH END SENTENCE

TAMPA -- United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the sentencing of **BRYAN LEE FOSTER**, a/k/a Lee James Bryant, age 36, by United States District Judge Richard A. Lazzara. FOSTER was sentenced to the high end of the sentencing guidelines and characterized as a predator by the District Judge. FOSTER's sentence included 115 months' (9 yrs, 7mos) confinement, five years' supervised release, payment of \$601,678.61 in restitution, and a \$300 special assessment for the offenses of bank fraud, mail fraud, and possession of false identification document-making implements with the intent to use them, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344, 1341, and 1028(a)(5). FOSTER entered a plea of guilty to all three counts before Magistrate Judge Thomas G. Wilson on October 29, 2002, after being indicted in a forty count indictment alleging that he devised and carried out a scheme to defraud numerous Middle District of Florida financial institutions, credit card companies, and individuals through the theft of true identities and creation of false identities to obtain money, funds, and credit for his own use.

Foster admitted that from September 1, 1998, through November 12, 2001, he developed and carried out a scheme which involved mail and identity theft and the production of false identity documents and counterfeit checks in order to obtain credit and

credit cards which he used to defraud over 50 victims of over \$400,000. The scheme was perpetrated in Tampa and Orlando. FOSTER was arrested in Tampa on November 12, 2001 by local authorities after being identified and captured by one of his victims.

The sentencing of FOSTER concludes a nine month joint federal and state investigation conducted by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service and the Tampa Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald L. Hansen of the Tampa Division of the United States Attorney's Office.